

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-27 and 29 are all the claims pending in the present application, new claim 29 having been added as indicated herein. Claims 7, 9, 10, 12, 14-16, 18-20, and 24-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 11, 13, 17, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Purcell et al. (US Patent No. 6,227,643). Claims 4, 8, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Purcell in view of Gast et al. (US Patent No. 5,583,547).

**§112, second paragraph, Rejection - Claim 11**

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reason set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant amends claim 11, as indicated herein, and believes that this amendment obviates the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**§102(b) Rejections (Purcell) - Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 17, and 23**

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 17, and 23 are rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 2-4 of the present Office Action. Applicant traverses these rejections at least based on the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 1, an accumulating means obtains an accumulated value for a certain ink cartridge, and when the accumulated value reaches a threshold, a writing member writes information into an element of the ink cartridge. Thus, claim 1 describes a writing timing in which the writing member writes information into the element of the ink

cartridge. The Examiner cites col. 8, lines 26-41 of Purcell as allegedly satisfying the above-described feature. However, Purcell does not describe the writing timing. Specifically, Purcell does not disclose or suggest at least, “when an accumulated value obtained by said accumulating means for a certain ink cartridge reaches said threshold provided for that ink cartridge, said writing member writes said information into said element of that ink cartridge,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, at least because the above-quoted feature is not disclosed or suggested by Purcell, Applicant submits that Purcell does not anticipate claim 1.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 17, and 23 are patentable at least by virtue of their direct or indirect dependency from independent claim 1.

With respect to claim 11, Applicant submits that this claim should be indicated as allowable at least based on its dependency from claim 10, which contains allowable subject matter.

Further, with respect to dependent claims 17, the Examiner cites col. 9, lines 39+ as allegedly disclosing that, after reading the ID information, a writing member recognizes each element by the ID information which has been already read, without conducting a reading operation again. Nowhere does the cited portion of Purcell even mention that the writing member, after reading said ID information, recognizes each element by the ID information which has been already read, without conducting a reading operation again. Therefore, at least because the above-discussed feature of claim 17 is not disclosed by Purcell, Applicant submits that Purcell does not anticipate claim 17.

**§103(a) Rejections (Purcell/Gast) - Claims 4, 8, 21, and 22**

Claims 4, 8, 21, and 22 are rejected over Purcell in view of Gast for the reasons set forth on pages 4-5 of the present Office Action. Applicant traverses these rejections at least based on the following reasons.

First, Applicant submits that dependent claims 4, 8, 21, and 22 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependency from independent claim 1.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 22, the Examiner does not show where Purcell or Gast mentions that a writing member selects one ink cartridge out of a plurality of ink cartridges according to the accumulated value when conducting a flushing operation. Since neither reference discusses the operations of the claimed writing member when a flushing operation is being conducted, claim 22 is patentable.

Finally, Applicant adds new claim 29, as indicated herein, to provide a varying scope of coverage. Claim 29 specifically recites that each of the plurality of ink cartridges comprises: 1) an element into which information may be written and, 2) a writing member for writing the information. Applicant submits that this new claim is patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

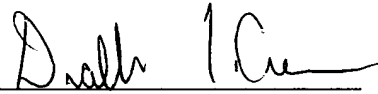
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 10/607,215**

**ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q76236**

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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